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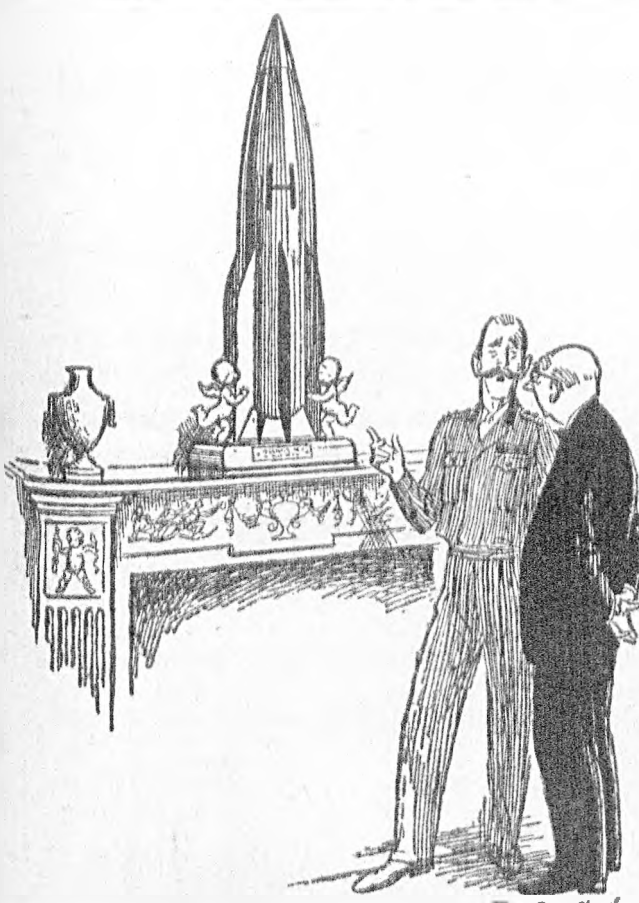
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PEACE NEWS

The International Pacifist Weekly

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"Silver wedding present, old boy. We thought it rather less dangerous than a clock."

FRENCH ANTI-WAR PAPER SUPPRESSED

Third Way Council protests
PEACE NEWS REPORTER

LE LIBERTAIRE, the organ of the French Federation Communiste, has been suppressed because of its opposition to the war in Algeria. This was reported to the International Council of the Third Way Movement at its meeting in Cardiff recently.

The Federation is a strongly anti-Stalinist organisation which has groups in France, Italy and Switzerland. It stands for libertarian principles, as its name implies.

The French Communist Party is also opposing the Algerian war and this opposition is, of course, consistently expressed in L'Humanite, their organ.

However, the present French Government under the Socialist Premier, Guy Mollet, has left L'Humanite alone while this smaller anti-Stalinist organ is not only suppressed but the occasion is taken to destroy it as an organisation.

The offending issue of Le Libertaire was that of June 7. Action was not taken by the police, however, until more than a month later, when not only was the issue for June 7 seized, but all the stocks of subsequent and previous issues. The occasion was also taken to search the offices of Le Libertaire and the homes of leading members.

Although L'Humanite is left alone, there is considerable suppression in France in regard to outspokenness on the position in Algeria. An issue of France-Observateur was suppressed some time ago, although this journal was too influential to be given the treatment by the police that Le Libertaire has received. M. Claude Bourdet, the Editor, was arrested, however, but pressure on the Government secured his release after a day or two in prison.

The Third Way has written to the French Prime Minister expressing its "deep regret" at the suppression of Le Libertaire.

The letter continues:

"We note that while the occasion for this

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BECHUANALAND

"The accuracy of many of the allegations in the series of articles in Peace News for May 25, June 1 and June 8 has been questioned. The normal procedure would be to have an opportunity to the other section in the magazine to publish their version in Peace News."

"We feel, however, that this course would result in a perpetuation of friction and a continuation of controversy in Bechuanaland, in the interests of peace and unity within the tribe we have therefore decided to withdraw from circulation the pamphlet in which the articles have been reproduced."

"The author of the articles it should be stated in sight" were the plight of a quarter of a million European refugees from Iron Curtain

NEXT WEEK

Special articles in connection with the Trades Union Congress and the Second Youth Conference of the British Council of Churches.

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SUEZ: OUR LOST OPPORTUNITY

Moral leadership thrown away for appearance of power

By ROY SHERWOOD

WHATEVER the precise wording of the final Suez Conference resolution, it is reasonably certain that the resolution will be one which President Nasser would not accept in free negotiation.

The danger of further complications, therefore, remains. As recent despatches from Cairo indicate, President Nasser would probably accept a consultative international committee of maritime powers, authorised to supervise that a purely Egyptian management kept the canal up to the standard of efficiency required by present and future needs, and whose other duty would be to report to the United Nations on any dispute which might arise regarding passage dues or other matters of direct concern to the users of the canal.

But he remains firm in his rejection of an international management over a "nationalised waterway within Egyptian territory" and in his insistence that the demand for such a management constitutes a clear encroachment on Egyptian sovereignty.

It is surely incontestable that purely Egyptian management and complete freedom from even such supervision through a consultative international committee as President Nasser is reported to be willing to accept, are Egypt's plain reversionary rights, falling due in 1968.

NO THREATS OF FORCE

The two new facts in the situation are: 1. President Nasser has anticipated the maturing date of Egypt's reversionary rights; 2. the greater number of the powers assembled in the London Conference want an arrangement under which Egypt shall not enter into full possession of her reversion even after the maturity date. Both therefore want something not provided for when the original bargain was made.

I can imagine no clearer case for the absolute necessity of give-and-take negotiation and the equally absolute condemnation of the use of force, or threats of force, in order to impose one-sided conditions.

Walter Lippman, the widely syndicated American commentator, wrote in the early days of the crisis that the British evacuation of the canal zone had marked the end of an epoch, and that it now looked as if France and Britain wanted to bring it back. Such criticism is plainly justified.

Ever since the first moment, France and Britain have given the clear impression that they were aiming at a direct humiliation of President

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"It is a pity that this commentary must be concluded before the London Conference has run its full course; the more so because the precise wording of the resolution with which it is to end, and the number of countries supporting that resolution without suggested amendments or possible reversionary, may to some extent depend on one or two of the talks which are still going on behind the scenes."

World survey of human rights

CITING both "slight advances and set-backs" to human rights, the International League for the Rights of Man, a United Nations non-governmental agency, on July 31 sent to the Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld, its annual report, entitled "Human Rights and the United Nations."

In a general survey of the last year, the League's Chairman, Roger Baldwin, said that the last year had seen a decline in international tensions, and a retreat from the prospect of world war. These developments had had their impact on human rights.

After stating that the ugly practices of forced labour appeared to have been modified under UN pressures, Mr. Baldwin warned against over-optimism, pointing out that out of the 140 governmental units in the world, 53 were clearly dictatorships, 34 were not far removed, and only 53 could be said to be democracies in which political opposition to the government is tolerated.

In such a world the UN could not be expected to rise above the practices of the majority of its member states.

BALANCE SHEET

Nevertheless the admission of 16 new countries made the UN representative of almost all the governments in the world, and provided opportunities to reach new countries in exerting pressures for human rights.

In a "balance sheet" of human rights at the UN, Roger Baldwin cited 14 slight advances, five backward steps, and three issues with no end in sight.

The slight advances included the breaking of the deadlock to the admission of new states; the UN action in the Trusteeship Council favouring timetables for the progress of some trust territories towards independence; the holding of the Togoland plebiscite; and the insistence of the High Commissioner for European refugees not to yield to the Soviet demand for the enforced repatriation of refugees.

Amongst the setbacks he numbered the walk-outs from the UN of France and South Africa; and the failure to discuss either self-determination for Cyprus, or the ending of the conflict in Algeria.

Three items listed as "Issues with no end in sight" were the plight of a quarter of a million European refugees from Iron Curtain

countries still without fixed residence, the plight of almost a million Arab refugees in Palestine, and the continued impasse in the Union of South Africa concerning the rights of minorities subject to discrimination there.

The International League also reported that in the past year it had intervened with a number of governments, on the basis of evidence received, concerning the violation of human rights in Cyprus, Algeria, Iran, Haiti, Liberia, Egypt, Portuguese Angola, and the Soviet Union.

The Chairman of the International League, Roger Baldwin, is a pacifist and was a conscientious objector during World War I.

DEPUTATION AT FOREIGN OFFICE

IN his broadcast on the Suez Canal crisis, the Prime Minister expressed the belief that he had the support of all listeners for the Government's policy.

The Peace Pledge Union was quick to point out the error of that assumption in the letter which was sent to him, and by a request to the Foreign Secretary to receive a deputation.

Although Mr. Selwyn Lloyd was himself too busy, he arranged for Mr. Dodds Parker, his Under-Secretary with special concern for Middle-East affairs, to receive the deputation on his behalf at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15.

The deputation consisted of Emrys Hughes, MP, Fenner Brockway, MP, Vera Brittain, Kathleen Lonsdale, Hugh Brock, Sybil Morrison, Allen Skinner and Stuart Morris.

Lord Dawson, Sybil Thorndike and Michael Tippett would have been present had not previous engagements prevented their coming to the Foreign Office.

SUSPEND MOBILISATION

The deputation was introduced by Emrys Hughes who thanked the Under-Secretary for sparing the time to meet them and explained that their main purpose was to offer some positive suggestion for dealing with the emergency, and he emphasised that though the PPU dissociated itself from aggressive nationalism it was essential to relate the immediate situation to the needs of the peoples of the Middle East.

Speaking on behalf of the PPU Stuart Morris said that although they were critical of the way in which the Government was handling the situation and of a policy which seemed to belie the Government's desire to find a peaceful solution, they desired to concentrate on emphasising the futility of the use of force and on the need for making real negotiations possible.

Since the Conference was to meet without the representative of Egypt, it should be regarded as no more than a preliminary attempt to produce a possible plan which must then be discussed with the Egyptian Government in a spirit of negotiation and not of dictation.

They suggested that of make real negotiations possible the Government should suspend mobilisation and further military precautions; announce their renunciation of the use of force to compel Egyptian acceptance of any proposals, and inform Colonel Nasser that any decision reached in London would be subject to negotiations with him, in which the legitimate needs of the Egyptian people would be given equal consideration with the importance of the Canal to world trade.

They would further suggest that future talks should be held in a neutral country and convened by someone not immediately involved in the dispute.

CHANCE FOR MORAL LEAD

Vera Brittain saw in the present situation the opportunity for the British Government to give a moral lead and show by reference of the dispute to the United Nations or the World Court a readiness to submit its case to the judgment of others.

Kathleen Lonsdale was disturbed that the announcement of the British test of four H-bombs should have been made immediately before the conference. The art of negotiation was to make it easy for opponents to act reasonably.

During her world tours she had found that Asian people were far more influenced by a

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Members of the Deputation, left to right: Hugh Brock, Editor of the Peace News, Fenner Brockway, MP, Dame Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, Stuart Morris, Miss Sybil Morrison, Emrys Hughes, MP, Miss Vera Brittain and J. Allen Skinner.

August 24th, 1956

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IN PERSPECTIVE

THE PRESS IN THE ATOMIC AGE

THE most important thing to note throughout the Suez crisis is the appalling levity of the Press. This comment is not confined to the "popular" Press, for, in its own particular way, The Times has shown itself as lacking in the sense of responsibility called for in the nuclear age as its brasher brother, the Daily Mail.

A stupendous event marks off the present era from all previous ones. The atom has been split. Nuclear energy can now be released. The first uses found for this new immense power have been for destruction.

Eleven years ago we were given two tiny samples of the extent of the destruction possible through this new weapon: two small bombs brought death to 300,000 people.

Since then the number of such bombs in existence has multiplied into many thousands. Their destructive power has increased: the H-bomb may have a destructive power 2,500 times that of the bomb dropped on innocent victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

A single aeroplane on a single journey can today carry a cargo of greater destructive capacity than carried by all the flights of all nations in the six years of World War II.

This destructive power is available to the Government of the leading Power in each of the two opposed blocs in the world today.

THE realisation of the horror of the threat, produced by this stupendous change in the world situation, brought together at Geneva in July, 1955, the heads of the leading nations involved in the world conflict.

All agreed that, despite many outstanding points of disagreement between them, there was one point of agreement which outweighed everything else: they could no longer contemplate resort to war in any circumstances as a means of reaching a decision upon any matter in dispute.

This conclusion was forced upon them because the nature of preparation for war in the nuclear age means that if ever again war is resorted to, it will mean the threat—and if a world war, the certainty—of universal destruction.

In such a war there could be no victor. All would suffer the common defeat of the human race.

IT is now very clear that as this new situation dictates there must be no resort to war, so it also rules out threats to resort to war.

Threats must either be carried out or impotently swallowed. In an age of possible nuclear war, it is tempting fate to engage in threats which the opponent knows, if carried out, would be a means to our own destruction.

All who have regard for the good name of Britain must regret that its Government, only one year after war had been set aside by the Powers at Geneva, is the first Power to threaten a resort to war.

It is no answer to say that Britain's interests—even its vital interests—have been attacked.

The decision at Geneva was not that no nation would in the future take action detrimental to the interests of another nation, but that, whether this happened or not, war could no longer be conceived as a method of dealing with such a situation.

MUCH as we may regret Britain's reaction in the Suez situation—its continued thinking in militaristic terms, supposedly abandoned at Geneva—it is not really surprising.

With its traditional assumptions destroyed, the British Government has, nevertheless, not achieved the fundamental reorientation in its policy clearly needed. It therefore automatically reacted to the Suez situation on the traditional lines.

Much more serious, we believe, is the tendency of the British Press to discuss Suez as if the events were taking place in 1936 instead of 1956 and nothing had happened in the world to impel them to do otherwise.

The worst example was probably the Daily Mail, which "always and at once puts the interests of our own country first." But the same monstrous levity has been seen throughout practically the whole Conservative Press.

Even that section of the Press not setting up a war-like clamour has been inclined to discuss the issue in terms that show no recognition that we are living in an era in which war is likely to become nuclear war with its threatened doom to a tolerable future for the human race.

THE RACE PACE QUICKENS

RACIALLY, the pace has quickened in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland since my last commentary.

Federal Parliament has been in session at Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia).

African MPs spoke with feeling on subjects ranging from a rather quaint complaint against the "slowness" of the Press in getting Parliament speeches published, to the "horrible" conditions which African workmen endure on the giant hydro-electric scheme at Kariba.

Most European Members protested at this show of African nationalism, as they called it, while the odd liberal would occasionally raise his voice to substantiate a point made by one of his black colleagues.

It was, of course, the case of a very frustrated man having his say while the going was good.

A better chance

Sometimes his statements lacked accuracy. Frequently he exaggerated.

Nevertheless, he made it very plain that he and his people had had enough of the White supremacy act and that he thought it time that the African was given a better chance to show what he could do.

Some African MPs, lamentably, resorted to threats of underground movements and hinted darkly that force might yet have to be used against the European.

But this is by no means a majority feeling among African MPs. Neither

BASIL DELAINE'S CENTRAL AFRICAN COMMENTARY

is it the majority feeling among Africans generally.

But there are black politicians who want no part in Federation. The idea of multi-racial government appals them.

The only concession they would give the European would be to allow him to stay in the country with no franchise rights.

This school of thought is most prevalent in Nyasaland. In particular it is the thought in the minds of Nyasaland African Congress leaders.

But the Congress in another part of the Federation has made a statement which bears no relation to this feeling.

Mr. Harry Nkumbula, as President of the Northern Rhodesian African Congress, has shaken Central Africa by denouncing the "strong arm" tactics of some of his members and pledging Congress to constitutional practice and the working for better race relations.

The statement was issued following a meeting with Unofficial Members of the Northern Rhodesia Legislative Council—the first meeting of its kind ever held.

It was arranged by the Member for African Education and Social Services, Mr. Harry Franklin, an astute European politician and journalist

THE plan put forward by Mr. Dulles on behalf of the Western group of Powers for the control and direction of the Suez Canal would be an admirable one if it were proposed unconnected with a dispute between a nation that has only recently achieved independence and the Power from which that independence had to be won.

It would have been very different if, for instance, this plan had been presented by Britain to the world between the wars as a way of bringing a means of transit of international importance under international control, and thus enhancing the influence of the League of Nations at a time when this was badly needed.

If, say, the Labour Government of 1924 or 1929 had done this, it would have been impossible not to have seen that there was real sincerity in an endeavour to increase the influence of the new international organ in which such hopes had been placed.

The effect on future history might have been very great and beneficial.

Although it would have been a good thing if, after its newly achieved independence, the Egyptian Government had voluntarily brought forward a plan, it is obvious that Britain has no right to expect from Egypt what it never even contemplated itself when effective control of the Canal was in its own hands.

It can certainly not be anticipated that Egypt, with all the touchiness of a nation newly free from imperialist control, will take kindly to a plan arising out of a bad-tempered dispute and following threats of force.

Toward a solution

FOR that reason we hope that the more tentative plan put forward by Mr. Krishna Menon will be seriously entertained and that the degree of elasticity left in the Dulles plan may perhaps be used to arrive at a compromise between the two.

In our view the important thing in getting a satisfactory settlement on the issue of the Canal is to get rid of the atmosphere of urgency. The need for a final settlement in this matter is not at all an urgent one.

The atmosphere of urgency derives from the fact that the British Government lost its head when confronted with Colonel Nasser's sudden action and the manner of its announcement.

There is reason to hope that the British Government sees things a good deal more soberly now and it would be better if the matter could ultimately be dealt with by some other conference than the present which has been brought together in an atmosphere of panic.

As a matter of principle the final arrangement for the control of the Suez should not be formulated in isolation from the general question of the control of all waterways of international importance.

If there is to be genuine internationalisation it should be applied not only to the Suez but also to other waterways such as the Panama Canal and the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

Such an approach is the only way in which the dealings with Egypt can

be relieved of the reproach that they are a continuation of the imperialist attitude.

Cyprus cease-fire

SOMETHING of the nightmare of violence that aggravates the suffering in the world has been lifted with the EOKA offer of a truce and the calling off of its terrorist activities.

We hope that an immediate consequence will be consultation again with Archbishop Makarios, and that there will be no barrier put in the way of this by requiring from him a preliminary formal condemnation of violence, which—if it is to be regarded as an unconditional commitment for the future—he would be no more likely to give than, presumably, the British Government in regard to Suez.

We naturally wish that the Archbishop would give such an unqualified renunciation of violence, but then we wish the British Government would equally do so.

Should the negotiations be renewed the Cypriots, in common with the

Suez Cyprus Germany Arms cuts Trosky

Greeks, will doubtless be ready to accord the British the facilities they demand for a military base.

Frankly we should prefer to see them standing firmly—and non-violently—against the alienation of their soil for any such purposes. We are confident that if the base is established they will regret it.

The Cypriots should give an unqualified endorsement to the dictum of Sir John Harding that "Violence does not pay. It is a futile waste"; and act upon the obvious consequence that a base for bombers on their land is a development to be resisted.

Were they to take such an attitude, however, they would be at issue not only with the British Government but also with the Greek. It can therefore be taken for granted that this issue is not likely to be a great obstacle and that the real problem, after the embitterment of feeling during the struggle, will be to provide a solution which will give a sense of security for the Turkish minority without giving them rights over the Greek majority.

Outlawed

WE must express regret at the action of the West German authorities in outlawing the Communist Party. It can be a particularly hard test for the believer in political liberty when he has to decide whether or not to leave liberty to those who he is perfectly well aware will suppress his liberty should they get the opportunity.

In the case of West Germany, however, the Communists are not a serious threat—less than ever after the Stalin revelations—and their suppression can be the first stage in the development of an attitude that can become very much like fascism.

We can see this factor in operation in South Africa and to a lesser extent in the U.S.

There is, nevertheless, a brazen lack of principle in the Daily Worker when it prefaces its report of this news with the comment that the West German Government is following the example of Hitler.

The Government that wishes to suppress an opposition party need not look to Hitler or to Mussolini.

They can follow the example of Russia and the Communist States, although the Adenauer Government will have to go much further if it is to put West Germany on the same footing in this respect with Russia, or even with East Germany.

Bryn Roberts's idea

MR. BRYN ROBERTS, General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, in an article in Labour's Voice advocates an "arms slash" of £1,000,000,000, leaving an expenditure of £500,000,000 on arms.

What he is really urging is that the Labour Party should advocate such a reduction: "Don't let it be said that Labour prefers guns to houses."

But Mr. Roberts remarks that "total disarmament is both impracticable and unreal." A reduction to £500,000,000 is, however, practicable. To that extent Labour may prefer guns to houses.

What bothers us about the contentions of Mr. Roberts is the absolute absence of any particulars as to how the £500,000,000 he holds should

be left for arms should be spent. As to how the cut of £1,000,000,000 should be spent he provides a wealth of detail.

There should be the erection of State factories for the development of automation; slum clearances and the rehousing of the people displaced; the construction of new roads and the modernisation of transport; better pensions and social services for the aged; free technical education in every town; and additional new hospitals and the replacing of present badly-sited hospitals.

Unreality

ALL this is, of course, quite a programme, and there is no doubt that £1,000,000,000 per annum could make a sizeable contribution to its fulfilment. By one who holds that total disarmament is impracticable and unreal, however, it needs to be balanced by an indication as to where the cuts in arms are to come from.

Would Mr. Roberts make these cuts in the development of military aircraft? Would he have the Government cut down on its programme for the development of atomic weapons or would he seek a saving by greatly stepping up development here as a means to saving on "conventional" arms?

Would he have Britain cut loose from NATO and economise on the commitments it has entered into in this field?

These are the issues that Mr. Roberts needs to talk about first, which we greatly doubt, and not a reality in his proposals, and there is mere setting out of a number of things that he holds would be desirable and calling it a policy.

Unless Mr. Roberts can propound a radically different conception of foreign policy than that endorsed by the Labour Party there is an obvious unreality in what he is urging; and if he is seeking a new foreign policy he should give its details logical precedence over the provision of better pensions, roads, etc.

Pacifists, who urge the total disarmament that he regards as impracticable, are at least ready to have been understood what they really advocate.

A broadens

NATALIA TROTSKY, the widow of Leon Trotsky, who was murdered in August, 1940, on behalf of the Stalin regime, has recently broadcast to such of the Russian people as can be reached by "Radio Liberation."

Rightly she points out that what the present leadership has done in Russia is largely a continuation of the Stalinist method of finding scapegoats for the corruption of the regime, with the serious difference that those who have recently been made the scapegoats have really been guilty of the crimes of which they have been accused, even though they may have been with the connivance of those who have now charged them.

She is naturally concerned to draw the obvious conclusion that the Stalin campaign against Trotsky partook of the same character as those against the many others of Stalin's victims who were done to death.

When, however, she implies that the Communist revolution would have taken a fundamentally different turn if the influence of Trotsky could have been made effective, we may be permitted to have our doubts.

That Trotsky was a more human and attractive figure than Stalin is true, but he was essentially a Communist to the same type of policy, just as Churchill may be a more attractive figure than Eden without that making any important difference in the line of policy they follow.

True freedom

MRS. TROTSKY holds that her husband, with Lenin, acted in complete accordance with the principle of collective leadership within the Party and that moreover they believed in democracy within the Party.

Trotsky was never tested at the centre of power and, although it had been, it is likely that he would not have developed into the monster that Stalin became, he would equally have been a captive of the policy of the dictatorship of the proletariat over the people and comparable evils would have developed, as they will under the Khrushchev regime unless the disclosures regarding Stalin are made the starting point for a fundamental political reconstruction.

The right of organised opposition is a main pillar of political freedom. The organised expression of dissent within the single permitted party would be an advance, but it does not believe political freedom can be halted at that point; true political freedom must inevitably embrace the right to form organised parties for the advocacy of conflicting policies.

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THE OKINAWAN VIEW

August 24, 1956—PEACE NEWS—3
NEXT WEEK

THE land problem of Okinawa has again come into the limelight with the publication of the report of the Price Investigative Sub-Committee sent there from the United States.

A total of 42,000 acres, or approximately 12 per cent of the total area of the Okinawan Islands has been requisitioned by the US Forces. The dissatisfaction of the Okinawan people against the US Forces is mounting.

The Okinawan viewpoint on the land problem is contained in the four principles outlined by the Legislative Assembly of the Ryukyu Government. They are, according to official Japanese sources:

1. There shall be no permanent use of lands through outright purchases or blanket payment of rents.
2. Appropriate rents and full compensation shall be paid for the lands presently being used.
3. Appropriate compensation shall be paid for all damages inflicted by the US Forces.
4. Unnecessary lands shall be released as soon as possible and new lands shall not be requisitioned. The problem involves not only economic factors, but also the deep-rooted religious sentiment of the Okinawan people.

Feelings Ignored

Their religious attachment to their land is well known. Their ancestor worship is a strong traditional force, and it is difficult for outsiders to understand their anguish in losing the land handed down from generation to generation.

Economically, under the existing anomalous circumstances of the islands, the money received in payment for land, even if its amount is acceptable, cannot be put to advantageous use, and there remains only desolate and uncultivable tracts of land for the dispossessed people.

The Price report can be termed generally fair, in the sense that it has equally taken into consideration the desires of the Okinawan people.

It seems to have failed, however, to take into due account the feelings of the Okinawans concerning the acquisition of new tracts of land.

The US sub-committee has recommended blanket payments of rents to acquire permanent land rights, a measure to which the Okinawans are most vehemently opposed. It also approved the acquisition of another 12,000 acres of land by the Marine Corps.

The Legislative Assembly of the Ryukyu Government, reflecting the strong opposition of the Okinawan people to these recommendations, promptly drew up a resolution against the report and presented it to the American

Opposition

An active opposition movement has been formed with a five-man consultative committee at its nucleus. It is composed of representatives from the Legislative Assembly, Administrative Government, Committee of Heads of Towns and Villages, Committee of the Federation of Lands Used by the Military, and the Committee of the Speakers of the Assemblies of Cities, Towns and Villages.

A Committee for Promoting the Settlement of the Okinawan Land Problem, organised by Okinawans residing in Japan, has petitioned the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Office with the resolution adopted by the Ryukyu Legislature.



Poverty-stricken Okinawans try to make a living as more and more land is taken by US military authorities.

SECRETS FROM LOS ALAMOS

Peace News Reporter

SANDWICHED into the agenda for the twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Public Health Association was this item:

1.30 p.m.: "Radiological Health," Wright H. Langham, Ph.D., Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

He was to be followed by speakers on the health services for American Indians, by a talk from the Chief of the Denver District Food and Drug Administration and a talk on communicable diseases.

A Peace News reader was among those present at the conference. Primarily she had gone to attend the session on Indian Health Services for she had been engaged in combating TB among the Navajo Indians. But what she heard and saw about radiation sent this grey-haired Quaker lady stumbling out of the hall with a redoubtable determination to work for the abolition of war.

This is her story of the lecture as she pieced it together from memory afterwards.

To illustrate his talk to the doctors of New Mexico, the man from Los Alamos had brought along some coloured slides.

There had been an accidental exposure to an atomic explosion.

Silence

The first slide showed an excellent specimen of manhood bare to the waist. There appeared to be severe sunburn in the area exhibited.

Slide two showed the same individual with hands swollen and blisters forming over the torso.

Three showed an advanced state of this condition with the mouth stretched wide open.

Showing the fourth slide, with the mouth stretched wider, the lecturer pointed out that the mucous membrane was destroyed throughout the body so that the interior of the mouth was raw.

The fifth slide showed a condition of death or near to death. The mouth was stretched to its fullest extent. The position of the body showed extreme tension.

Autopsy revealed the vein walls weakened to an extent that they were unable to hold blood. The entire intestinal tract was therefore flooded.

A final slide showed experiments on a mouse. It had died, as had the man, with mouth horribly distorted.

The local press carried extensive reports of the Congress. But not of the session addressed by the man from Los Alamos.

Dr. Langham has since indicated that he can only repeat the talk if it is sponsored by a federal or state organisation.

A MINORITY REPORT

on the PPU Conference
By DICK DARLINGTON

"A ROLLICKING GOOD TIME!" just about sums up the holiday aspect of this Conference. For instance, Minnie Pallister, with one foot cheerfully "in the grave," chased about the countryside in the cars of her "millionaire" friends. Much the same goes for Sybil Morrison, who was often grave without putting her foot in it.

Wallace Hancock, in making a passing reference to the Angels of Mons, nearly raised the roof.

One can only conclude, since Gabriel didn't descend to investigate the clatter, that some weighty Quakers who have accepted honours in an Upper House whispered to Peter that

ON PAGE FIVE

First thoughts on China

By LESLIE HALE, MP

AT the age of twenty-six I contested my first Parliamentary by-election in Nottingham and there made friends with, and enjoyed the hospitality of, a number of distinguished Jews. It was only when I found myself being privately a little surprised at their charm and their culture that I realised that, up to that time, I had been slightly anti-semitic. I wondered why.

There were no Jews in my village. I had been brought up in a liberal home. Then I realised that until that time, the only Jews with whom I had an acquaintance were Fagin and Shylock.

A few years ago a very distinguished delegation from Burma were entertained in this country, and I had the privilege of lunching with them.

They were far too courteous to laugh at us but it was possible to detect an occasional unobtrusive smile. They found us a little queer.

The previous evening they had been entertained to the theatre and their hosts had selected "Chu Chin Chow on Ice." I always thought this was a story which had both humour and pathos until I repeated it one day to one of the party's numerous experts on foreign affairs.

RESTRICTIONS

He explained to me "Well you see, Leslie, it's very hot in Burma."

These random reflections arise from the fact that I have accepted the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Institute of the Chinese People's Republic to pay a short visit there this month.

I do not expect to get to know much about a country of six hundred million population in three weeks, but the fact that I am going has already stimulated my interest in Chinese affairs.

They are, of course, a people with a civilisation infinitely more ancient than ours, a people renowned for their courtesy. How much courtesy do they receive here?

China, our ally in the last great war, the most populous country in the world is still not permitted an Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

We still place embargoes upon their trade. Many of these restrictions are holding back the

development of Chinese industrial recovery.

Is there anyone, out of Bedlam who thinks that Chiang Kai-shek is the legitimate ruler of China or that the occupation of Formosa can any longer be justified?

And is there not, in most of our literature and in many journalistic references to the Chinese people a form of subtle depreciation which is to be deplored.

SHED INSULARITY

Somehow we have to shed our insularity. It is not going to be easy. Anyone who has watched the appalling British sabre-rattling over the transference of ownership of shares in the Suez Canal Company must realise that we have still much to learn.

We believe in the United Nations when it suits us.

We go to the International Court when we feel we have a strong case. When we have a bad case we order out the gunboats and then wonder why all the peoples of the world don't seem to love us.

So I leave within a few hours for Peking, which contains the Forbidden City no longer forbidden, a great town which was described to me as "the most beautiful in the world."

I hope to do no more than to see as much as possible during my stay, to make as many friends as possible, and faithfully to report to Peace News just what I have seen.

The Colonial Office has announced that Messrs. Charles Russell and Company, the Solicitors acting on behalf of the Tribunal appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to enquire into certain matters relating to the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and the African Continental Bank Ltd., have retained Mr. B. J. M. MacKenna, QC, and Mr. W. A. B. Forbes to appear as Counsel for the Tribunal.

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Letters to the Editor

What are pacifists doing?

IF Reginald Reynolds, so first-class a satirist, has failed to see my sarcasm I am forced to conclude that I am, myself, no satirist!

Of course he did not say anything about "skis" ending with an "o" or an "i" or a "u". But he did refer, as I think extremely slightly, to "stick-in-the-mud British pacifists" directly following upon great praise for Danilo Dolet, Vinoba Bhave, and the Negro bus boycott in Montgomery.

The impression, in my view, was given that everyone was all right except the British.

It was not my intention to say, nor imply, that the Family Service Units were violent, nor to sneer at their work. I merely said, and I repeat, that where examples of non-violent resistance are being instanced, the FSU does not come into that category, and is not specifically pacifist.

The title of Reginald Reynolds' article was, after all, What Are Pacifists Doing?

I do not think my request to know what is meant by "living pacifism" is answered by instancing a case of a schoolmaster who was a very good fellow and influenced for good many of his pupils.

There are, no doubt, other teachers, both male and female, who have by their own characters influenced for good those who were fortunate enough to be their pupils. That is not to say the influence was towards pacifism.

Reginald Reynolds says he was just about to catch a train for Georgia where "action counts more than sermons." Of course action counts against oppression; that is precisely my argument. I assume, however, that it was not for action but for speaking that he was himself going there.

In reply to John Banks, I did not say that non-violence ceased to be non-violence because non-pacifists take part in it; I meant that FSU was not a specifically non-violent organisation.

His remarks, therefore, about the Third Way Movement seem to be irrelevant; particularly as I have understood that the Third Way Movement at its last conference, rejected the inclusion of non-violence as part of their basis.

Perhaps I have been misinformed.

SYBIL MORRISON.

6 Apollo Place,
London, S.W.10.

Suez

RON KEATING'S pacifism is evidently of a more elevated kind than mine. Mine is resistance based on a point of conscience—in my case the inability to accept organised killing or destruction.

His letter does me, however, one injustice: I had not forgotten the need to raise the living standards of the Egyptian masses.

That my article has been reproduced by the PPU in pamphlet form may be due to the simple fact that my views happened on this occasion to be considered suitable for general non-pacifist consumption—let us say as an indictment to non-pacifists to give a hearing to the most elementary form of the pacifist cause. I readily admit that if Ron Keating comes anywhere in his own life to meeting all

inimical action by love and compassion, he is immeasurably superior to myself in moral and pacifist standing.

I am an old and hard-boiled writer on world affairs, and I prefer peace on earth to angels in the clouds.

ROY SHERWOOD.

26 Charing Cross Rd.,
London, W.C.2.

THE "case Nasser"—as pointed out by Roy Sherwood's Commentary a fortnight ago—should be looked upon from a "preventive point of view," instead of seeking "cure for power politics."

The real background of the crisis is: the Aswan Dam, or being more explicit, the miserable living conditions in Egypt, which Nasser wanted to improve by getting money through his "nationalisation."

Whatever the outcome of the London Conference may be—and there is little prospect of a generally acceptable solution—the big problem remains: What will be the lot of the millions of fellahs on whose backs the game of promising and withdrawing the irrigation projects has been carried out?

If an "International Development Authority" existed, as suggested by Mr. Harold Wilson, MP, in "War on Poverty" (Gollancz, 1953) or if the policy expressed in "Waging Peace" (PN pamphlet) had been taken up seriously, the "Suez crisis" could have been avoided.

It is to be hoped that those pacifists who have adopted an individualistic isolationist view and regard assistance to "backward areas," abolition of "Colonialism" and removal of racial inequalities as sidelines realise now, that "collective pacifism" is a practical peace policy.

Lansbury, in his way and under different circumstances, tried to show a way for "ending Colonialism" and for the removal of the economic causes of war. Today's crucial problem is co-operative co-existence and a drastic reduction of the arms burden, to help the "have nots."

Many pacifists think that only moral issues are relevant and neglect problems of economic assistance.

Instead of isolating themselves, they could help to formulate a common platform for a constructive peace policy by supporting the suggestion of the Co-operative Party and Co-op. Women's Guild (PN, May 11) and demanding that the British Government should call a Conference with the US and USSR Governments to reduce armaments and help under-developed areas, including Egypt.

Good deeds will open hearts—and keep also the Suez Canal open.

FRANCIS RONA.

Vienna.

Archbishops and hanging

IN his comment on the House of Lords debate on Capital Punishment, Stuart Morris writes:

"Neither of the two Archbishops are abolitionists, and they only gave qualified approval of the Measure at that stage in the hope that the Bill would be subsequently amended and modified."

In fairness to the Archbishop of York it should be stated that when it was suggested that he had "certain reservations to make", he intervened to say,

"I said, without any reservation at all, that it was my intention to vote for the Second Reading of this Bill, and that I desired its passage into law..."

I do not know precisely what views one must hold to be an "abolitionist", but Dr. Ramsey did say,

"Very perplexed as to the weight of force of argument on the one side and on the other, I have come to think that the abolitionists' case is by far the stronger..."

Stuart Morris has, I think, indicated a view that was peculiar to the Archbishop of Canterbury among the Lords Spiritual.

C. DOUGLAS STAINTON.

56 Headingley Avenue, Leeds, 6.

In view of the many claims on our very limited space, correspondents are urged to keep their letters under 250 words.

Church and war

From L. J. HALE

THE history of the Church's attitude to war was traced by the Rev. Albert G. Errey, MA, BD, when he addressed the Nottingham Fellowship of Reconciliation group recently.

He said that the paucity of any direct reference in the New Testament made difficult the task of those who would arrive at any judgment, from a Christian standpoint, on any social question, whether pacifist, non-pacifist, opponent of slavery and so forth.

He asserted that the early Christian Church was not specifically pacifist, but was a world-denying Church, and so refused the state its military and other services.

During three hundred years this gradually gave way to a world-affirming attitude, until by the time of Constantine the army was in a great degree, Christian.

Mr. Errey traced this attitude through the Middle Ages and the Crusades, through the land-owning Bishops until the formation of the Anabaptists and the Quakers, and other groups in a determined effort to break with war, power and riches, and develop the principle of Christian love which had already restrained the excesses of war.

A MINORITY REPORT

Wallace was like that and that the Society of Friends makes allowance for him.

That would be authoritative for Peter.

It would be impossible to refer to or even catalogue the names of the unofficial representatives of the satellite bodies which encircle pacifism.

What stuck out a mile was that everyone said NO to war.

However much the vegetarians and anti-vivisectionists regretted the semi-cannibalism of the meat-eaters, they did recognise that all were united in refusing to eat babies, and were completely opposed to a so-called protection which included the murder of babies and lovely boys and girls.

And there were some lovely boys and girls at the Conference. Both children and parents deserve special commendation for making such a pleasant contribution to the life of the conference.

Consideration of the children raised the problem of the right to strike when Margery Jones spoke on Pacifism and the Home.

COME, SEE

There was a typically Anglo-Saxon mumus of approval when a native, asked to speak on Pacifism and Politics, made a more than passing reference to self-determination for Wales.

It would be impossible in a short digest to give an adequate idea of the innumerable discussions, heated discourses, witty remarks, excursions into the surrounding country, and the unsurpassed friendliness of the hotel staff.

The whole thing was admirably organised. There was freedom without license.

Who organised it? Whose was the guiding hand? Stuart Morris. Yes; yet he appeared as one of us: he was seen to laugh on more than one occasion.

He was a walking parable of the ideal Kingdom: he was Servant of all.

But we could have been so much more happy if we had known that all lovely boys and girls throughout the world were to be exempt from military service; and that statesmen were, at last, really stretching themselves to negotiate wholesale disarmament.

GIBRALTAR

MR LENNOX-BOYD, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has stated that the time has now come to make certain changes in the Constitution of Gibraltar, and he is taking an early opportunity of laying before the Queen in Council the orders necessary to give effect to them.

The changes to be made were the appointment of one more unofficial member to the Executive Council, an increase in the number of elected members of the Legislative Council from five to seven, and provision for the appointment of an independent speaker of the Legislative Council—it being understood that in view of the possible difficulty of finding a qualified and independent person for this office, the Governor would continue to preside over the Council when the office of Speaker was vacant.

Should the Legislative Council so decide, he would also be agreeable to the reduction in the number of nominated members of the City Council from five to four, and the removal of the ex-officio member from the Council.

★ FROM
PAGE THREE



The PPU Summer Conference

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Don't you believe anything you read. You test it for yourself.

Come next year to Borth. Never mind the weather. It could hardly have been worse; some bathed in the sea to get warm. But, you scarcely noticed the weather.

You come and see.

Could not a free, unified and unarmed Germany be a step to world disarmament?

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A CALL TO YOU RUGBY

Saturday, September 1

3.45 p.m., OPEN AIR MEETING

Brotherhood House, Castle Street

Speakers: Sybil Morrison

Stuart Morris

7.00 p.m., FORUM AT BROTHERHOOD HOUSE

"INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS"

Panel: Mr. James Johnson, MP

Brian Groombridge

Sybil Morrison

Stuart Morris

Send your names to: SYBIL MORRISON,

6 Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1. EUS 5501

DIARY

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning.

2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)

Thursday, August 30

DEVONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg., Bush Rd., Group discussion. PPU.

Saturday, September 1

RUGBY: 1.45 p.m.; Brotherhood House, Castle St., Open air mtg. Stuart Morris, James Johnson, MP, Brian Groombridge, Stuart Morris, Sybil Morrison, Chair. Raymond Morris. Volunteers to support this pacifist demonstration welcomed. Peace Pledge Union.

GLASGOW: Open-air mtg. Queens Park, Victoria Rd. 7.45 p.m.; Glasgow PPU.

HYDE PARK: 4 p.m.; Pacifist Youth Group. Every Sunday. PYAG.

MANCHESTER: 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Blitz. Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local pacifist ministers and others. MPP.

THURSDAYS

LIVERPOOL: 8 p.m.; Pier Head. Open-air mtg. Fred Barton, Liverpool and District Peace Board.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

LONDON: Weekend Workshops, cleaning and redecorating the homes of old-age pensioners. IVSP, 19 Pembroke Villas, W.11.

SUNDAYS

GLASGOW: Open-air mtg. Queens Park, Victoria Rd. 7.45 p.m.; Glasgow PPU.

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TUESDAYS

MANCHESTER: 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Blitz. Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local pacifist ministers and others. MPP.

THURSDAYS

LIVERPOOL: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg., Bush Rd., E.10 and E.11 Group. PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen St. Weekly Peace Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by Clergy and laymen of various denominations.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Dick Shephard Group.

Friday, September 7

HULL: 7.30 p.m.; 6 Bond St. Annual General Mtg. Peace Pledge Union.

Saturday, September 15

LONDON, N.W.11: London Area Garden Party. King Alfred School, North End Rd. Peace Pledge Union.

Sunday, September 16

BELLINGHAM: 8 p.m.; St. Dunstan's Hall. Brains Trust on Peace and War. Rev. Anthony Bailey, MA (A.P.F.), Ronald Malone, BA (Fellowship Party) and others. Fellowship Party.

LONDON, W.C.2: 2.30 p.m.; Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq., W.C.1. Conf. for prospective conscientious objectors. Speaker, discussion, tea. Society of Friends.

Saturday, October 6

CROYDON: 4-6 p.m.; Adult School Hall. Surrey Area Social. Children's Tea Party and Conjuror; Stalls and evening entertainment. Peace Pledge Union.

EPNOM: 7.30 p.m.; Myers Hall (behind Ebbisham Hall), Ashley Rd. "Any Questions?" Panel: Ritchie Calder, CBE, James L. Henderson, Sybil Morrison, Minnie Palmer, E. C. Redhead, MP, Chair, Austin J. Rees. Subject: "International Relations." Epsom and District Peace Fellowship, 55 Culverhay, Ashford, Surrey.

Saturday, October 20

CAMBRIDGE: Pacifist Demonstration. PPU.

Saturday, October 27

LONDON, W.C.1: 6-9 p.m.; Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq., Meeting of Area and Group representatives. PPU.

Sunday, October 28

LONDON, W.C.1: 10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.; Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq., Meeting of Area and Group representatives. PPU.

Saturday, November 3

LONDON, W.1: Welsh Ho. Ch. Bazaar. Religion Commission, Peace Pledge Union.

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Suez: our lost opportunity

Nasser, and up to the present day neither of them has shown any sign of being ready to concede as much as the Egyptian President, with every legal right on his side, has already conceded by the statement that he would negotiate on the basis of a consultative international committee.

They have exaggerated the question of the "nationality" of the Suez Canal tenfold, in sheer disregard of the fact that Egypt's own interest dictates the highest possible efficiency and that the one Egyptian-imposed ban on transit through the Canal (on ships and goods for Israel) has been tolerated by them for eight years and was, moreover, imposed before Nasser came to power.

CHANCE FOR LEADERSHIP

Even at the conference, they have (wisely) said next to nothing about this one instance of discrimination, the reason being that it did not run counter to certain policies connected with oil requirements.

But they have said a great deal about Egyptian nationalism and Nasser's ambitions to become the leader of a united Arab world.

Prestige has been their constant preoccupation and main motive, but not in the meaning which any pacifist can lend to the term.

Britain for the sake of influence over the Middle-East, and France mainly on account of her North African troubles, interpret prestige as meaning a reputation for great power—sufficient power to make it inadvisable for anyone to displease them seriously.

Neither of them really possesses that degree of power any longer, but in running after its appearance they have lost—and particularly Britain—the opportunity with which the whole incident presented her to take a great stride forward towards the moral leadership which, in view of Russia's and America's more exuberant youth—should now be our main objective in a fast changing world.

For the whole Suez Canal trouble started with an act by President Nasser which, in spite of its undoubted legality, was outstandingly wrong in the manner of its execution; and was, moreover, announced in a most aggressive speech.

If that had been answered by the British Government by acceptance of the legal position, with plain but courteous insistence on the legitimate reservations entailed by the new situation and a call for a negotiating conference sponsored by a neutral or the United Nations, together with a declaration that it would have nothing to do with the outbreak of jingoism in France, there would have been a gain in prestige, and in real prestige, not in a mere reputation to gain ends by the ability to frighten.

NO HURRY NEEDED

Instead, President Nasser's aggressiveness, for which there was the mitigating excuse of the sudden withdrawal of the Aswan Dam help offer, was answered in language and by action rarely experienced since the days of Palmerston. And even that has not "come off."

Whatever the official outcome of the London Conference may be, the whole world knows by this time that not only most of the smaller countries' delegations but also Mr. Foster Dulles are not in favour of the methods advocated by France and Britain.

It also knows that the London Conference has certainly not come up to British and French hopes and that, even within the United Kingdom, public opinion and feeling has been moving steadily in the direction of greater moderation than the Prime Minister and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd want to display.

In short, even in the power politics meaning of the term prestige, France and Britain cannot register the gain for which they had hoped.

And if they should still be obstinate enough to go ahead with military measures without further negotiation, they will run the risk of being called before the Security Council on a charge of aggression.

DELAINE

FROM PAGE TWO

her in his car to the nearest hospital—the African Hospital.

They stood—my friend supporting the shocked woman—in a corridor for some minutes while a European sister was called.

When she arrived she took one look at the European woman and thoughtfully informed the Good Samaritan that "this is an African Hospital—we can't take Europeans here."

The bewildered crash victim was then driven some four miles to the European Hospital.

And so we go on in this crazy Black and White Federation of ours.

SELLING PN

THE Peace News circulation drive is increasing in intensity.

In London recently, Mrs. Winifred Greenfield, who sells week-by-week in Charing Cross Road, 'phoned PN office urgently requesting extra copies. She had sold over 40 of the 60 copies she has each week, in ONE MORNING. She ordered a total of 132, and at the last report had sold 120.

In Swansea (South Wales) during August Bank Holiday Week Doris Robinson sold 70 on the doorstep in an area of Swansea that in the past had not produced very good results, Doris is hoping to do even better.

Plans announced last week for the door-to-door campaign to commence in Leytonstone on Saturday, October 13 are going ahead. Would volunteers please contact PN office as soon as possible.

RON KEATING,
Sales Organiser.

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President Nasser may never become the leader of a united Arab world, but British and French policy has untied the Arabs in a common animosity against France and Britain, and at the same time estranged India and Indonesia.

It may be foretold with fair certainty that Russia will dissent from the conference resolution, and it is at least probable that India and Indonesia will also do so.

When you now add to these the millions of China and of all the other countries which would have voted against the Western resolution of they had been—as they ought to have been—represented in a conference dealing with a world issue, you will get an approximate picture of the amount of ill-feeling stirred up by the unwise decision to hold this London Conference of 24 nations, reduced to 22 owing to Egypt's and Greece's refusal to attend.

There was never any need to hurry; never any legitimate grounds to exclude any of the countries which were not invited; never any but selfishly nationalistic reasons for not enlarging the discussion to embrace other important internationally used canals; and there should never have been any threats—even though they are being called precautionary measures.

I asked in my last week's commentary, in connection with Mr. Truman's statement that he had vainly argued at the Potsdam Conference in favour of international control over all the great canals of the world, whether it was Russia or Britain that stood out against this fine proposal.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd has given the answer. He did so in his broadcast of August 14, in which he accused Russia of inconsistency for now opposing the internationalisation of the Suez Canal, after having advocated it in 1946. It must therefore have been Britain. But Mr. Selwyn Lloyd said nothing about British inconsistency—against in 1946, willing to fight for it in 1956.

Such is the game of power politics.

DELEGATION

FROM PAGE ONE

show of reasonableness than by a show of force.

Allen Skinner recalled that the one outcome of the Geneva talks had been a general understanding that the method of war was ruled out. It was disturbing to find that in the first subsequent emergency it was Britain who was prepared to resort to the method of war.

Colonel Nasser had not committed any aggression in the popular sense, but troop movements might well provoke the very situation which Geneva had decided must be avoided.

Sybil Morrison asked in view of the Foreign Secretary's broadcast, of what breach of international law Colonel Nasser had been guilty and why it had not been brought before the International Court of Justice.

Fenner Brockway explained that although he was not a member of the PPU, he represented a large and increasing body of opinion which on this issue supported the pacifist point of view. The Government would do well to take notice of a change of opinion which was more significant than he had known in any similar emergency.

He deplored the fact that no reference had been made to the United Nations until the Foreign Secretary's broadcast and hoped that the recent change in the tone of Colonel Nasser's statements would be met by a similar change in emphasis on the part of the Government.

Mr. Dodds-Parker replied to some of the points raised and it was agreed that while the deputation should be free to make known

HIROSHIMA DAY OBSERVANCES

From a Correspondent

THE Southend and District (Essex) Peace Council joined by peace workers from East Ham, Walthamstow and Hford, held a Poster Parade through the main thoroughfare of Southend-on-Sea on August 11 in observance of Hiroshima Day.

The procession was headed by a Drum and Scots Pipers' Band, the effect of which was quite magical.

In previous poster parades, the people generally seemed quite indifferent to the peace testimony, but with the band at the head the streets were lined with crowds standing stock still, listening to the strains of music, and carefully reading the peace slogans on the posters.

The Rev. Edwin Foley (Chairman of the Council) and the Rev. Abraham Cutts, a local Baptist Minister, followed the band with a large banner inscribed with the name of the Peace Council, other poster parades following.

HECKLERS STOPPED

An open-air meeting on the Sea Front followed, presided over by the Rev. J. W. Lowe, M.A., a local vicar, with powerful and effective addresses by the Rev. Dr. Bryan Thomas, and Sybil Morrison.

Dr. Thomas urged that the Suez and other international problems be settled by negotiation, and not by the evil violence of war with probable nuclear weapons, destructive of the race.

Some heckling in the audience showed that some were in favour of stopping, or trying to stop Nasser in his plans by resort to war.

Sybil Morrison, the next speaker, said she was shocked to find that some people were in favour of calling up thousands of men.

For what? To blind, maim, cripple and slay millions of human beings, which she contended was an immoral thing and would not prove who was right, but simply who was the strongest.

"SOUND AND FURY"

The idea of war to gain our ends, however right and lawful, is distasteful to the British people. Our military preparations have not been made to precipitate war, but to ensure that if a situation arose in which our vital interests were interfered with we would have the means ready to retort. . . . If we are resolved and ready and strong time is more on our side than his [Col. Nasser's].

Sunday Times, August 19, 1956.

THE basic assumption in this elegantly wrapped up threat is that if the desired ends are considered to be right and lawful, war to gain them, however distasteful, would also be right and lawful.

It is on this assumption that for centuries wars have been fought; Hitler, no doubt, believed it "right and lawful" to use war as a means to gain for Germany certain specific ends.

Britain has also made war, on more than one occasion, to protect what was believed to be, by the Government of the day, "vital interests," such as the South African gold mines, or "essential" trade routes.

The Sunday Times leader was merely saying what, unfortunately, had already been said by Britain's Foreign Secretary in his opening speech at the Suez Canal Conference.

In spite of two world wars, no lesson seems to have been learned; the same trite, puerile phrases about the peace-loving British people, people who only go to wars, not made by them, in the last resort, roll off the tongue so facetiously that it is obvious there is nothing new in the mind from which they emanate; there is

SUPPRESSED

FROM PAGE ONE

act of suppression has been criticisms of the policy of the French Government in regard to Algeria that were published in Le Libérateur for June 7, the opportunity has been taken to suppress the whole available stocks of the journal.

"The policy that the French Government is pursuing in Algeria—a policy which is a denial of the Socialist conceptions avowed by leading members of your Government—inspires the condemnation of liberal and progressive opinion throughout the world.

"It would be surprising if in France, with its strong tradition of liberty, there were not to be found voices to echo this condemnation.

"We believe that Le Libérateur is giving expression to views widely held among the French people and we deplore that a Government under the leadership of Socialists finds itself constrained to take so many steps which threaten liberty of opinion in France and of which the most recent is the suppression of Le Libérateur."

Briefly

Syrian Customs officials last week turned back nine RAF 25-ton tanker lorries carrying oil from Jordan to Cyprus, because "Customs regulations prohibit the transit of war materials." This was not related to the Suez Crisis.

Conscientious objectors elected in the recent municipal elections included Alex Clarke (Hull) and Hugh Brock and E. L. Edwards (Stoke Newington—the London borough in which Peace News office is situated).

the suggestions which they had put forward, no statement should be issued beyond the fact that the deputation from the PPU had met the Under-Secretary and been courteously received.

no fresh thought that would need a different phraseology, some pointed turn of expression to convey a new idea.

To declare that military preparations are not made in order to precipitate a war is empty of any real meaning, since no one in this nuclear-weapon day and age would deliberately take an action that could not fail to set the whole world alight.

Nevertheless, it is these same military preparations, however well disguised as a mere means of "retort," which will in the end be the means of making war.

"Playing with fire" is a mild pastime compared with the utter irresponsibility of playing with the weapons of modern war.

To be resolved and strong has a fine sound, but if it means, as it undoubtedly does, resolution in place of reason, and strength in place of justice, it is nothing but an empty phrase, "full of sound and fury," belonging to a past age, the echoes of which clamour so loudly, apparently, in the ears of statesmen, that they merely repeat them, like the clapping of a parrot, who always picks up the most worthless words from the many he hears.

Colonel Nasser will not be proved right or wrong by going to war, any more than he will be proved right or wrong if he should compromise now before this sword brandishing, swashbuckling kind of talk.

It is in fact just the kind of talk which is terrifyingly likely to provoke rather than to conciliate. But conciliation has, unfortunately, taken to itself the same meaning as "appeasement"; it would almost seem as though the words of peace, indeed the very meaning of peace, had become so altered as to have lost its true sense.

"Peace" no longer means a quiet state of mind, a condition of harmony and concord and co-operation with others; a tranquility of spirit and mind and heart, in which hatred and the war could have no possible place. On the contrary, like the words "appeasement" and "conciliation" it has become degraded to mean something cowardly and traitorous.

The very emptiness of the words poured out in regard to the Suez Canal, the tinny, clanking sound of the swords loosened in their scabbards, have betrayed the hollow bankruptcy of present day statesmanship.

What is needed is a great moral lead, an inspired direction away from the slogans and shoutings and the ancient war-cries, the drum banging and the bomb explosions, towards an understanding of the world's desperate need for the abandonment of war.

Words may have lost their meaning, but actions have not; there is a great opportunity here to prove the real meaning of peace; let us hope it will not be entirely lost.

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arranged by Labour Peace Fellowship

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Bob Edwards, MP Jim Mortimer
(Gen. Sec., Chemical Editor A.E.S.D.
Workers' Union) "The Draughtsman"

Chairman: Victor Yates, MP

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